(c) In Assam NGOs namely, WWF-India, Aranya Nature Club, Early Birds, Nature's Bacon Society, Blue Cross and Rhino Foundation are operating for the conservation and protection of wildlife and eco-development. These NGOs operate through out the whole State. No Company is operating in the State for these causes.

(d) and (e) the afforestation programme for NER during the 9th Five Year Plan is as per State Plan approved by the Planning Commission.

Pollution in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

1726. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present level of Urban air, water and noise pollution in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, separately;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any time-bound concrete programme to deal with the crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The levels of air, water and noise pollution in the major cities of Tamil Nadu and Kerala are depicted in the following tables:—

Tabled

Ambient Air Quality Status Based on Annual Average in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Annual Mean Concentration Range (ug/m3)

Pollution level	Industrial		Residential	
	S02&N02	SPM	S02&N02	SPM
Low(L)	0-40	0-180	0-30	0-70
Moderate(M)	40-80	180-360	30-60	70-140
High(H)	80-120	360-540	60-90	140-210
Critical(C)	>120	>540	>90	>210

1 State/City	Industrial Area			Residential Area		
	S02	N02	SPM	S02	N02	SPM
Tamil Nadu						
Coimbatore	—	—	—	—	L	M
Tuticorin	—	—	—	L	L	M
Madras	L	L	L	—	—	—
Kerala						
Cochin	L	L	L	L	L	—
Chingavanam	L	L	L	—	—	—
Kottayam	L	L	L	—	—	—
Kozhikode	L	L	L	L	L	M
Trivandrum	L	L	M	L	L	M

S02=Sulphur Dioxide, N02=Nitrogen Dioxide; SPM=Suspended Particulate Matter. ** '—'-Data not available.

Table: 2

Ambient Noise Revels in Chennai and Kochi (All values expressed in decibels)

Cities	Residential		Commercial		Sensitive		Industrial	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
Chennai	57-84	45-50	74-80	69-71 85	46-70	47-50 72	69-76	63-69
Kochi	70	51	56		51		70	61

Table: 3

Water Quality Status of the rivers monitored in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in 1998

s. NO	*State*	*BOD (mg/1)*			*Total Coliform (MPN/lOOml)*			*Fecal Coliform (MPN/lOOml)*		
		>3	3-6	>6	>500	500-5000	>5000	>500	500-<5000	5000
1	Kerala	275	1	0	10	238	24	71	192	
2	Tamil Nadu	260	38	12	6	168	72	63	219	53
				31						

(Note: The figures indicate the number of observations having values of parameters in ranges)

(b) and (c) Government have initiated following steps to control pollution:

(i) Based on the monitoring results, two critically polluted areas have been identified in Tamil Nadu (Manali and North Arcot) and one critically polluted area has been identified in Kerala (Greater Cochin). Time pargeted action plans have been implemented in these areas.

(ii) Polluted river stretches have also been identified which have been taken on priority during the implementation of National River Action Plan.

(iii) Environmental Surveillance Squad (ESS) has been set up to deal with the crisis. The regular monitoring of significant polluting sources is carried out and is reviewed from time to time. Actions have been initiated agianst the defaulting units.

(iv) A National Environmental Action Plan for controlling pollution from various sources has been formulated.

(v) The scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns around metro cities has been launched by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment to control in-migration to the metro cities.

(vi) The Central Pollution Control Board is imparting environmental education and training in the area of pollution control.

(vii) A number of documentaries and films have been financed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests educating the general public for taking measures to protect the environment and control pollution. These documentaries / films are shown in Doordarshan and other channels.

Environmental Clearance to Development Projects

1727. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 439, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1999 and state:

(a) What is the number of projects out of those pending for environmental clearance which were sanctioned, rejected or sent back to State Governments, so far for one reason or other during the last three years, particularly concerning Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) how much time is likely to be taken by Government for clearance of those projects;

(C) whether Government propose to delegate same powers to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Out of 97 projects covered under EIA/CRZ Notifications which were indicated as pending in reply to Unstarred Question No. 439 answered on 3.12.99, 17 projects were accorded environmental clearance, one was rejected and five were closed as on 30.11.99. With regard to Orissa and Rajasthan, following are the status:

	Orissa	Rajasthan
Number pending as on 31.10.99	3	8
Numer cleared		2
Number closed		1
Number pending as on 30.11.99		5